

practices and philosophies during her tenure, and local educators today credit Judge Betham for having revolutionized "teaching" in American Samoa.

Even after she retired from the Department of Education, Judge Betham continued to be active in the field of education. A short time after retiring from the DOE, she was appointed director of Catholic Schools. She served as director for several years until she was again called on by the government to serve as an associate judge on the High Court of American Samoa. Judge Betham was sworn in on April 17, 1991, a day which is very significant and special to the people of American Samoa. April 17 marks the date on which the United States first raised its flag over the Islands of American Samoa. The people of American Samoa celebrate the anniversary of this relationship every year on April 17, and it is the biggest holiday of the year.

As an educator, Mr. Speaker, Judge Betham touched many lives and she found much joy and pleasure in following the successes of her former students. As a judge, she touched equally as many lives and she found much satisfaction and comfort in making sure that the result reached by the court was just and fair.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to Judge Betham's husband, James "Rusty" Betham, and her children. I am sure that the proud legacy which she left them will live on in their hearts and in the hearts of all the people of American Samoa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SOLOMON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1815

SUPPORT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 121, REGARDING PROLIFERATION OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY FROM RUSSIA TO IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STRICKLAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very serious issue related to the well-being of our Nation. Recently it has come to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency that nongovernmental entities within Russia have participated in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to the country of Iran.

This specific trade practice threatens the security of the United States and our allies and, quite simply, it endangers our ability to maintain world peace. Furthermore, the advancement of weapons of mass destruction to Iran happens to be in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

For these reasons alone, this trade between Iran and Russia must stop. As history illustrates, Iran has nurtured a reputation for terrorism and has con-

sistently displayed open hostility toward United States' interests.

Although Russia has acknowledged previous weapons trade with Iran, the most extreme action they have taken to end the current proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is to initiate an investigation. As I see it, Mr. Speaker, an investigation does not adequately address this critical situation.

Nevertheless, Russia continues to enjoy foreign aid from the United States and the financial profits of trade with Iran. Russia is enjoying the best of both worlds at the expense of the safety of innocent victims who all too often fall prey to the hostilities instigated from Iran's terrorist regime.

We now have reached a point where agreements and investigations are simply not enough. It is time to eradicate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction between Russia and Iran. Congress and the President should demand that the Russian government take steps necessary to stop all involvement, including the involvement of nongovernmental entities, in the disbursement of weapons of mass destruction, especially when the country of Iran is involved.

Furthermore, should Russia ignore our request, we must not simply disregard their failure to succumb to peacekeeping efforts, but rather, we must take the most serious and effective steps to end this dangerous activity and impose sanctions on the responsible parties.

House Concurrent Resolution 121 expresses congressional concern regarding the proliferation of missile technology from Russia to Iran, and I strongly urge my colleagues in this House to give their support to this worthy resolution.

TRIBUTE TO IRA POTTARD

(Mr. REDMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a distinguished individual in New Mexico, Mr. Ira Pottard. He lives in Clovis, NM, and he is one of the last living Buffalo Soldiers of the U.S. Army. Coincidentally, he is celebrating his 75th birthday.

Mr. Pottard has reason to be proud of his accomplishments and his contribution to military history. The Buffalo Soldier horse cavalry units played an important but often forgotten role in our national defense.

Buffalo Soldiers attained their name while fighting in the Cheyenne War from 1867 to 1869. Native American warriors referred to the African-American horse soldier troops as Buffalo Soldiers because of their dark-colored dusty coats and the fearlessness which they showed in battle.

Until they were disbanded in 1945, Buffalo Soldiers fought to maintain law and order by guarding the western front of our Nation and pursuing out-

laws and cattle thieves. They also played an important role in both World War I and World War II.

During World War II Mr. Pottard served in the Ninth Cavalry stationed in the Burma-India-China Theater. He later served the unit until it was decommissioned, which resulted in the end of a significant era.

At this time I ask my fellow Americans to join me and New Mexico in thanking Mr. Ira Pottard for his years of dedicated military service as a Buffalo Soldier.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. QUINN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. QUINN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BOEHLERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOUGHTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed out of order with my special order now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of House Resolution 157, which was passed by unanimous consent just a few minutes ago this evening.

It is a great pleasure for me to join with the people of India and the Indian-American community in paying tribute to the 50th anniversary of India's independence, which is one of the things that is mentioned in the House Resolution.

After years of determined and dignified struggle, the people of India finally gained their independence at midnight on August 14, 1947. That midnight hour, evoked by India's first Prime Minister Nehru in a stirring speech to the parliament, marked the beginning of an inspiring effort by the people of India to establish a republic devoted to the principles of democracy and secularism.

In the five decades since then, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development while reconciling her many ethnic, religious and linguistic communities, India has stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multiparty political system, and the orderly transfer of power from one government to a successor.

Anyone who doubted India's lasting commitment to these values would have had to be converted into a believer in Indian democracy after witnessing the elections of the spring of last year in 1996. In what proved to be the largest exercise in democracy in world history, half a billion people voted to shape their country's direction heading into a new century.

The coalition governments that followed that election in the spring of 1996 have shown their commitment basically not only to democracy but also to representing the broad spectrum of the Indian population and continuing on the path of economic reform.

Although many Americans may not necessarily recognize it, there is a rich tradition of shared values between the United States and India. Just as the United States proclaimed its independence from the British colonial order, so was India born of the struggle for freedom and self-determination. India derived key aspects of its constitution, particularly its statement of fundamental rights, from our own Bill of Rights; and the Indian independence movement, under the inspired leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, had strong moral support from American intellectuals, political leaders and journalists.

In turn, Dr. Martin Luther King, in his struggle to make the promise of American democracy a reality for all of our citizens, derived many of his ideas of nonviolent resistance to injustice from the teachings of Gandhi. Thus, we see a clear pattern of Indian and American democracy inspiring and enriching one another at almost every historical turn.

I happen to be, Mr. Speaker, the founder and also now the cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India, and I represent in my district in New Jersey one of the largest Indian-American communities in our country. I want to continue to work for stronger ties of friendship and cooperation between the United States and India, in part because we have such a legacy and we are the two greatest democracies.

It is an honor for me to pay tribute to India for 50 years of independence. I know there will be a number of events celebrating the 50th anniversary as we

lead up to it in August over the next couple of weeks, some of them in Washington, some of them in almost every major city and a lot of other places in this country. So as we adjourn today in the House of Representatives, I think it is particularly fitting that we pay tribute to the 50th anniversary. Many of us will be joining in these celebrations over the next 2 weeks.

THE CONCLUSION OF A MOMENTOUS PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota [Mr. Thune] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to be here this evening at the conclusion of such a momentous process. For the first time in 30 years we have balanced this country's budget. For the first time in 16 years we are bringing tax relief to the hard-working men and women and families of this country, and we are saving Medicare for the next generation.

These things are so inseparable from my whole objective in being a part of this process and my desire to seek this position in the first place. It was on a fundamental level, because I believe in those values.

And what a difference a Republican Congress can make. These are our values. When we start talking about balancing the budget and lowering taxes and saving Medicare and reforming welfare, those are the things for which we have stood.

The reason we have succeeded today in a bipartisan way, with the support of a lot of Democrats in balancing the budget and lowering taxes and saving Medicare, is because the other side has also figured out that these things are consistent with the values that the American people hold. The reason we were able to succeed in doing this is because the American people, very clearly, sent a message that they believe in a balanced budget, that they want lower taxes, that they want smaller government, that they want more freedom at home. And for the first time in a generation, we are sending more power and control back to the people of this country.

So this is an historic day, and it is a privilege to be a part of this process and be here when all this happens. It is the fulfillment of a goal that many of us have had. And as we look at the progress that we have made in achieving those goals, this has to be the cap stone.

Think about what we have accomplished and what we did today for the first time in a long time. We can talk about the intricacies of tax law, but it is really about people and it is about giving them more control of their economic future. In this Congress we have committed ourselves to doing just that.

When we look at the tax cut and the relief that will go back, and I have lik-

ened this in many respects to trying to drive a MACK truck through a car wash, because the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BILL ARCHER, the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and his colleagues on that committee, had an enormous and daunting challenge, and that is how to find some tax relief, how to take a small amount of revenue and make it go as far as we can in terms of bringing relief to the largest number of people in this country. I think they did that.

We could not afford to build a bigger car wash so we had to come up with a smaller vehicle, and yet the vehicle that we have has a tremendous number of things that will be important to the people in my State of South Dakota. I look at what this bill contains and I am delighted to be a part of this.

I think rural America will fare very, very well in the final analysis. There is death tax relief. My State of South Dakota consists primarily of small businesses and family farms, and we want to encourage people who are on the farm, people who are in those businesses to be able to pass those on to the next generation. This is an important first step.

There will be a health care deduction, deductibility for insurance premiums paid by self-employed people. That also is something that is very pro small business, very pro family farm. And a home office deduction for people who work out of their homes.

The capital gains tax relief. If someone sells a steer or a stock or a home, they will pay a lower rate. In fact, when they sell their home, and it fits within the criteria in this bill, they will not pay any capital gains tax. What a wonderful thing for the homeowners and the families of this country who are trying to pursue the American dream.

And of course education tax relief, the tax incentives that are in here to encourage young people, families, to get the higher education they need that will make us competitive and prepare us as we approach the 21st Century.

These are all things that help enable people to make the decisions that affect their daily lives, and it puts more freedom and more control, and it is a shift of power out of Washington, DC and back home. That is something for which I am, indeed, very, very proud.

If we look at where we have to go, this is an important first step. We have a long road ahead of us, but for the first time in a long time we have recognized how important it is that we take a portion of that which Washington takes from the hard-working people in this country and give it back.

I think there will be a lot of people taking credit for the way this bill has played out. We have heard a lot of discussion on the floor today about various components and parts of that, but take, for example, the family tax credit. The other side has claimed some amount of credit for that, but look at where that originated.